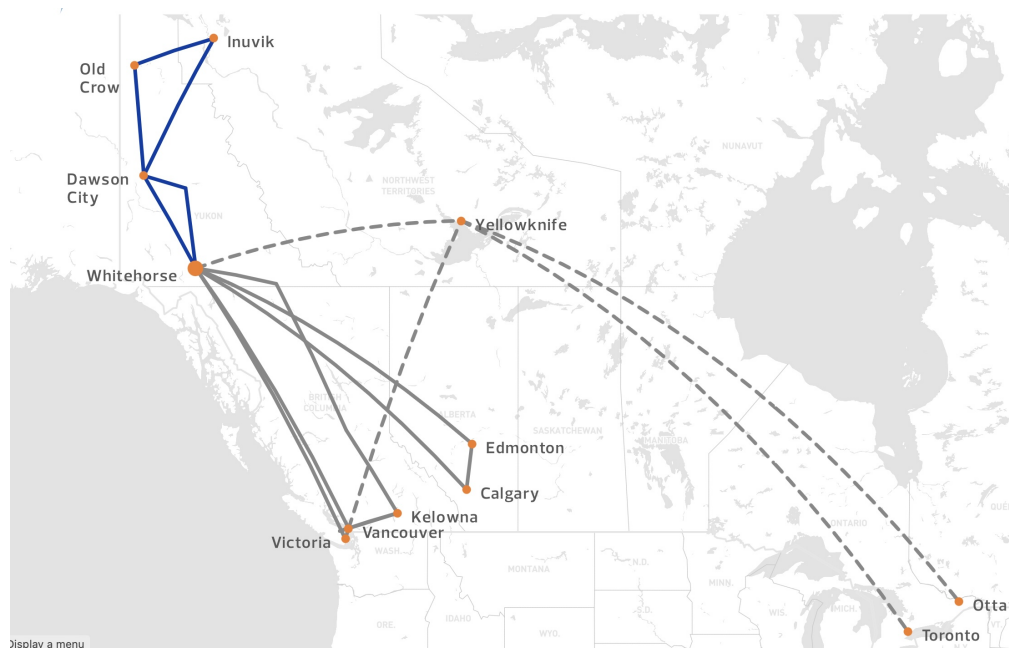


Air North Route Map



Alaska and Hawaii Airlines Combined Route Math

### Combined route map



## MATH F113X: Dijkstra's Algorithm

### Dijkstra's Algorithm

**input:** a graph with distances (weights) on the edges, a starting vertex, say  $s$  and end ending vertex, say  $e$

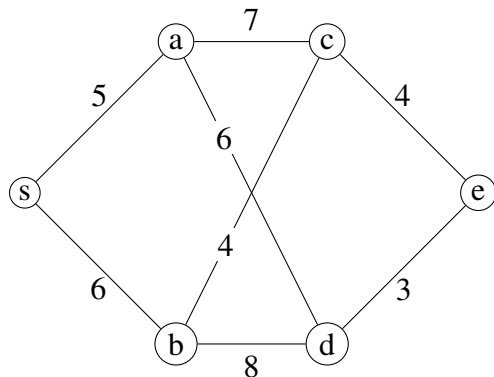
**output:** the length of the shortest path between  $s$  and  $e$

**rough strategy:** Starting with the ending vertex, work your way back to the starting vertex keeping track of the shortest path **thus far**.

**Steps:**

1. Mark the ending vertex with a distance of zero and label it as **current**.  
(FYI: Once a **current** vertex is explored, it will be labelled **visited** and never considered again.)
2. Let  $v$  be the current vertex. For every vertex  $w$  with an edge to  $v$  **not marked as visited**, calculate the distance from  $w$  to  $e$  through  $v$ . If this distance is smaller than the present distance, update  $w$  with the new distance.\*\* Otherwise, do nothing.  
(FYI: This number is called the tentative distance to  $e$ .)
3. Mark the current vertex as **visited**. Never look at this vertex again.
4. Identify the **un-visited** vertex with the smallest distance to  $e$ . Mark it as current and return to step 2. You know when to stop when vertex  $s$  is labeled as **current**.

\*\* If you keep track of which current vertex updates a tentative minimum distance, you can recover the shortest path itself, not just the length.



vertex	current/ visited	tentative minimum distance to $e$	preceding vertex
s			
a			
b			
c			
d			
e			

Length of the shortest path from  $s$  to  $e$ : \_\_\_\_\_

Find the shortest path from  $s$  to  $e$  **using the last column in the table**.

Think of another application of Dijkstra's Algorithm. It must include: vertices, weights of edges, and the meaning of a shortest path.